

**Appln. No.: Not yet assigned**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing bearing shells in which blanks are made from a strip material, then these blanks are shaped into a bearing shell and finally these bearing shells are provided with an overlay, characterized in that wherein

at least one stamped marking is introduced into the inner surface of the blank or the bearing shell within a strip-shaped area below the parting face prior to application of the overlay, wherein the depth and width of the stamped marking are sufficiently have to be large enough for the contour of the stamped marking to be retained after application of the overlay.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced prior to machining of the inner surface.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a machining step is used in forming the bearing shell and where characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced in combination with[[a]] the machining step which has to be performed anyway.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the at lease one stamped marking is introduced during a punching out operation of the blank.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced during shaping.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced into a subsequently to be produced relief area of the bearing shell.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with [[a]] an initial depth T, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final the depth T' of [[is]]  $\geq 0.1$  mm.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with [[a]] an initial depth T, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final the depth T' that is > than twice the a thickness D of the overlay.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that a the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a round or n-gonal contour, where n is  $\geq 3$ .

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a width B, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final width B' that is > twice the thickness of the overlay.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a width B, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final width B' that is  $\geq 0.1$  mm.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced in the middle of the strip-shaped area.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced at the edge of the strip-shaped area.

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14. (Currently Amended) A bearing shell having at least one stamped marking [[(7)]] in ~~its~~ an inner surface within a strip-shaped area of the bearing shell (3,8) below at the parting face of the bearing [[(2)]].